DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is in response to Applicant's response filed on June 29, 2009.

Election/Restrictions

2.   Claims 3-4, 9-10, 15-16, 21-22 and 23-24 are withdrawn from further

consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Group,

there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant's election with traverse of

Species I in the reply filed on 6/29/09 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the

ground(s) that examining all of the claims together places no undue burden on the

Office. This is not found persuasive because the Applicant did not cite any evidence in

support of the assertion that the search could be made without serious burden. The

Examiner previously set forth as to why the inventions were considered to be

independent or distinct (see Office Action mailed on 6/9/09). Therefore, the Examiner

acknowledges Applicant's election of Species I (claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-14 and 19-20) in the

reply filed on 6/29/098.

3.   The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview
with Aaron C. Deditch (Registration No. 33,865) on August 11, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-18 and 21-24.

Allowable Subject Matter

5.   Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-14 and 19-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art on record:

Cox et al. (US 5,915,027) teaches systematically varying the order in which
watermark signal components are inserted into each subimage by inserting only part of
the watermark signal into each subimage, and during watermark detection, by
combining reconstruct the original watermark signals found in groups of subimages to
reconstruct the original watermark signal before testing for correlation within any
predefined watermarks. The watermark signal is processed into noise spectrum signal
by the error correlation encoder the pseudo-random number (PN) mapper, and the
spectral transformer. The data to be watermarked is used as input to data segmenter,
which segments the data into blocks or subregion. Each of the subwatermrks output by
the watermark segmenter is then inserted into a data block by one of the watermark
inserter. (Figure 2, col. 5, lines 10-33)

Tewfik et al. (US 6, 272,634) teaches a first watermark requiring the host data for detection is embedded into the host data. A second watermark is also embedded into the host data. A pseudo-random sequence acting as a watermark is generated based on two random keys. One of the two random keys is related to the author of the host data into which the watermark is to be embedded, whereas the other of the two random keys is dependent on the host data itself.

The prior art on record either taken singularly or in combination fails to teach: *"obtaining complexity of said block data by performing a wavelet transform; obtaining amount of transformation of said frequency coefficient from said complexity and said digital watermark data by using a quantization width such that the larger said complexity is, the larger said amount of transformation is; embedding said digital watermark data in said digital data contents by transforming said frequency coefficient by said amount"* including all the other limitations recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 7, 13 and 19 have similar limitation as claim 1, therefore, are also allowed for the same reason set forth above.

Dependent claims 2, 8, 14 and 20 are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEWAYE GELAGAY whose telephone number is (571)272-4219. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Emmanuel L. Moise/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437